

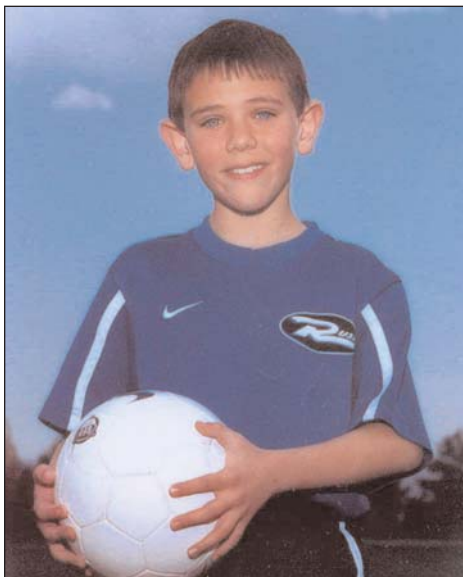
Ten Year Old's Vision Reaches Iraqi Children

By 1st Lt. Chris Heathscott
39th BCT Public Affairs

TAJI, Iraq -- Stories of heroes are common in Iraq. The daily struggles of life in a combat zone have borne thousands. Our Servicemen and women usually dominate these stories, but one in particular involves a hero who doesn't wear a uniform at all, at least not a military uniform. This one is dressed to play soccer...and he's 10 years old.

Jared Jolton was home in Colorado, when the Soldiers with the 39th Brigade Combat Team's 3rd Battalion, 153rd Infantry, were lining up their convoy at Camp Taji, Iraq, for their day's mission on Dec. 11. Although physically on the other side of the world, it was Jared's vision that led to the mission to deliver a 5-ton truck full of soccer balls, clothing and equipment to some of the more needy children in Iraq.

"Jared has always been a kid who thought about how he could help others," said his mother, Jill Jolton via e-mail. "Even when he was in pre-school we would drive past a corner where homeless people frequently solicited donations and he wanted to give them his sack lunch."



Ten year old Jared Colton's dream was to have soccerballs, clothing and equipment delivered to needy children in Iraq.



Photos by 1st Lt. Chris Heathscott, 39th BCT Public Affairs

Three Soldiers with the 39th Brigade Combat Team air up the soccer balls for distribution along with other soccer equipment to Iraqi kids.

His dream to help the less fortunate children was sparked one day when he saw he had 10 pairs of soccer shoes and shin guards that he had outgrown.

"He remarked how lucky he was to be able to get new gear each season and wanted to re-distribute the gear to people who weren't so lucky," Jolton said. "While he first envisioned me and him driving back to the corner where the homeless people stand, he quickly did some math and the project grew. He figured that if all the families in his soccer club, the Colorado Rush, also had 10 pair of shoes laying around that he could quickly gather 10,000 pairs and get them to kids all around the world."

With his drive for donations a success, now the chore of getting the goods to their final destination was the next challenge. Colorado Springs resident, Sage Harper, got word of the issue and stepped in to help.

Harper, who with his six-man team, worked for ITT installing, operating, and maintaining more than 40 AT&T phone centers for the servicemen and women in the Iraq, called on ITT for help.

"The costs of getting the gear

through the soccer club would have been huge so I told ITT of my situation and asked them if they'd be willing to assist in shipping the gear via FedEx to us," said Harper. The... office gladly agreed to help out and the gear was shipped to Kuwait. Then we put the gear in the back of one of our new phone centers that happened to be heading to Taji."

With donations on the ground in Iraq, Harper now sought the assistance of the 39th Brigade Combat Team to take on the final phase of delivery to the children. He presented his request for assistance the brigade's civil affairs staff officer, and commander of the 403rd Civil Affairs Battalion, Maj. Michael Guiles, who was very willing to assist.

"As I started to find out the story about Jared the more motivated I was to do this," Guiles said.

Guiles presented the project to his battalion representatives, with the 3rd Battalion jumping on the opportunity to deliver the equipment to the children in their area of operations.

"Capt. Robbins was very proactive.

Continued on Page 2

Iraqi Children Get Soccer Equipment Thanks to 10 Year Old

Continued from Page 1

I put it out on the table, and said if you guys want to get involved in this be quick about it," Guiles said. "[He] helped us put it all together and he could maneuver it, so that's why we went with them."

The most difficult portion of the project now behind them, Harper and the Soldiers were now loading up for the 'easy' part...a combat operation outside the wire to deliver the goods to the children of Husaniyah.

"At the first site, in the beginning, there was a little boy who must have only been a bit taller than my knee," said Harper. "He got up to the front of the line and seemed to have a blank expression on his face as to why was he even there. He looked around till he finally glanced up into the back of the 5-ton as a soccer ball was being dropped."

"Once the soccer ball, cleats, socks, jersey, and shin guards were in his arms, he broke out with this great smile on his face," he said. "Seeing this little one just try to carry everything, while he was glowing as he was, would make anyone's heart melt. That totally made my day and there wasn't anything that could have brought me down."

With the 39th's multiple such missions overshadowed by the realities of an environment infested with insurgents driving a continued war to stop progress in Iraq, Harper now saw our efforts in a different light.

"I feel bad but I really didn't know of much of this type of work being done," he said. "I've heard about several units adopting schools, etc...but never openly doing good things like this in a community. This was totally amazing and I'm sure that the unit makes a difference. Only time will tell."



Photos by 1st Lt. Chris Heathscott, 39th BCT Public Affairs

(Above) A child receives an armful of clothing and shoes.

(Right) Another child happily puts a new toy to use.

While the smiles from the children provided a measure of effectiveness for the mission, the sight of our uniformed Soldiers handing over these gifts potentially marked them as heroes to these kids. Although many were involved to make this dream a reality, there was only one 'real' hero.

"Jared's one of my heroes," Guiles said. "I think that this is a great example that even today no matter how complex the world is, everybody stands a chance at making a difference in the world. Even at 10 years old you can affect the way that people live and you can change somebody's life. It's awesome."



Useful Iraqi Words/Phrases

Where can I get tickets?

ayn ashtaree at-tazaakir?

Saturday

High: 50
Low: 29



Sunday

High: 54
Low: 32



Monday

High: 57
Low: 35



Weather information provided by 1CD Staff Weather Office (SWO)

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News Notes

12 Million Bees Need a Ride to Cali

LAS VEGAS (AP) -- A truck carrying 12 million honeybees hit a wall on a highway ramp, dumping its load across the pavement shortly before the evening rush hour. The truck was carrying 480 bee colonies, each with 25,000 insects, to California to pollinate the state's almond crop when it struck the wall Wednesday afternoon. The collision spilled the bees and gallons of honey onto the highway and forced troopers to close the southbound ramp between Interstate 15 and U.S. Highway 95 for more than four hours. Authorities summoned beekeepers to help but decided capturing the bees alive would take too much time and money. Firefighters doused the insects with water to kill them.

Some Looking for Love on Planes

NEW YORK (Reuters) -- Nearly one in four Americans get on a plane over the holiday season hoping the person sitting in the next seat might be a future date or spouse, according to a recent survey. The survey of people planning a holiday trip found 28 percent saw a flight as a chance to make a new friend, 24 percent were hoping to meet a new love interest or a future spouse and 14 percent hoped to make a business contact. Still, many would resort to tricks to avoid talking to a bore -- 49 percent said they would read, 41 percent would put on headphones and 10 percent will ask to be left alone.

Rusty takes on the 'Eddie'



AP

Rusty Keaulana of Hawaii takes a large wave in the first heat of the Eddie Aikau Invitational on Waimea Bay in Haleiwa, Hawaii. 'The Eddie' is a one-day event held when waves are 30 feet or higher.

Boston Fire Department Partners with Army

BOSTON, Mass. (Army News Service) -- Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Richard Cody visited with Boston firefighters Dec. 13 as their department joined a program that provides jobs to Soldiers transitioning back to civilian life.

Cody participated in a ceremony welcoming the fire department into the Partnership for Youth Success program during his trip to New England in which he also administered the oath of enlist-

ment to a group of military recruits, awarded recruiters, and addressed the International Soldier Systems Conference in Boston.

In the PaYS ceremony, the Boston Fire Department joined the ranks of nearly 100 other organizations in the program. The intent of the program, officials said, is to provide an additional recruiting incentive for prospective troops and to help reconnect America with the Army by strengthening the country's businesses.

"Nationwide, our PaYS partners have posted approximately a quarter of a million jobs that are available to Soldiers," Cody said. "That's an amazing number and a true testament to the benefit of a PaYS partnership. PaYS truly is a win-win situation for our Soldier, our partners and our Army."

Cody told the firefighters that through this program today's Soldiers may one day end up serving the city of Boston. He paralleled the dedication of both Boston firefighters and Soldiers.

"Duty, selfless service, personal courage - this is a language we already share," he said. "I will never quit; I will never leave a fallen comrade - this is an ethos we both already live by. The partnership we sign here today only strengthens that bond."

Cody visited the Boston Military Entrance Processing Station where he officiated over a ceremony that swore in 14 volunteers who had decided to serve the military. He thanked them for their willingness to serve the military.



Army News Service

Boston Fire Department Commissioner Paul Christian and Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Richard Cody sign an agreement recognizing the Partnership for Youth Success program partnering the fire department and Army.

Pistons Clamp Down on LeBron in Win

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. (AP) -- When LeBron James shot two airballs on a single possession in the first quarter, it was a sign of things to come.

Richard Hamilton scored 21 points and the Detroit Pistons held Cleveland to a six-point third quarter and almost held James scoreless in the second half in an 81-69 win Thursday night.

James finished with a season-low 11 points on 4-of-21 shooting, eight rebounds and seven assists.

"I missed a lot of shots that I'm normally going to make, but they were playing really tough defense against me," said James, who scored a career-low four points last year as a rookie. "Every time I came off a screen, they doubled me."

After making a fadeaway jumper over Ben Wallace at the end of the first half, James didn't score again until there was 2:12 left in the game.

James scored a career-high 43 points the last time he faced the Pistons, a 92-76 win on Nov. 28 in Cleveland.

"He got whatever he wanted in the last game," Rasheed



Reuters

Pistons guard Chauncey Billups drives past Cavaliers forward Drew Gooden during Detroit's 81-69 victory Thursday.

Wallace said. "Not this time."

Chauncey Billups scored 16, Rasheed Wallace had 13 and Ben Wallace added 10 and 15 rebounds for the Pistons.

Cleveland's Drew Gooden scored 18 points, Jeff McInnis had 14 and Zydrunas Ilgauskas finished with 12 after an eight-point first quarter.

The Central Division-leading Cavaliers are 9-1 at home, but just 5-8 on the road.

Detroit outscored the Cavaliers 21-6 in the third to take a five-point lead and it led by double digits for much of the final quarter. The six-point quarter matched a season low in the NBA this season.

"We lost our poise," Cleveland coach Paul Silas said. "We had everything going for us, but we didn't do a good job with it. You can't do that. We have to learn from this."

Martinez Takes New York up on Challenge

NEW YORK (AP) -- Pedro Martinez considered the choices: stay with the World Series champion Boston Red Sox, sign with the NL champion St. Louis Cardinals or become the cornerstone of a reconstruction project with the New York Mets.

In the end, he chose the challenge.

Martinez formalized a \$53 million, four-year contract with New York on Thursday and embraced the idea of helping rebuild a team that has fallen on hard times.

"This is a team that needs a little help. I can supply some of that help," Martinez told a jammed Shea Stadium press conference.

"Boston didn't win for 86 years that seemed like forever. I was proud to be part of that and I hope to do the same here and pull one out," he said.

It will be no simple matter. The Mets followed two last-place finishes by finishing next-to-last in the NL East in 2004. They are starting over with new general manager Omar Minaya, and Martinez became the first marquee move in his effort to make the franchise competitive again.

If Martinez has his way, he won't be the last.



AP

New York Mets' pitcher Pedro Martinez shakes hands with Mets manager Willie Randolph as General Manager Omar Minaya looks on during a news conference Thursday.

Minaya said other high-profile free agents have contacted him, attracted by the Mets' signing of Martinez, and the pitcher wants to help recruit them.

"If you expect me to do it alone, it's not going to happen. Without a doubt, I will talk to other players," he said.

In Brief

Lisa Marie to Sell Daddy's Estate

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) -- Lisa Marie Presley is keeping Graceland but selling the bulk of the Elvis estate, including rights to her father's name and image, in a deal worth approximately \$100 million. Elvis Presley Enterprises Inc. announced an agreement Thursday to sell 85 percent of its assets to businessman Robert F.X. Sillerman, founder of music and sports promoter SFX Entertainment. As Presley's only child, Lisa Marie is the sole heir to the estate, most of which is now to become part of a publicly traded company that will be called CKX Inc.



Pitt, Damon Too Hot for Hotel

LONDON (AP) -- Brad Pitt and Matt Damon canceled a press conference promoting their film *Ocean's 12* Thursday after they were evacuated from a London hotel when a small fire broke out. Nobody was injured. The fire broke out in the kitchen of the Claridges Hotel in the city's upscale Mayfair district, according to the London Fire Brigade. No injuries were reported, but guests were evacuated as a precaution. Damon, Rolling Stones frontman Mick Jagger and comic actor Jim Carrey - the latter in London promoting *Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events* were all seen leaving the building.

Soldiers Deliver Medical Supplies to Sadr City Hospital

By Spc. Jan Critchfield
122nd MPAD

FORWARD OPERATING BASE HOPE, Baghdad -- In an effort to improve relations with the citizens of the Sadr City area, Soldiers of Charlie Company, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division delivered medical supplies to a local hospital Dec. 13.

"Today we delivered medical supplies for an emergency room at the Al-Qadissyaia hospital," Company C commander Capt. Troy Denomy said, "This donation serves two purposes ... it fulfills a promise we made to the hospital, and it shows the good will of the American people."

Supplies delivered included four electrocardiograph machines, seven oxygen canisters, two oxygen regulators, two anesthesia machines, six CPR assistance bags, and other assorted life-saving equipment that totaled roughly \$50,000.

These types of donations are "absolutely critical in Sadr City," Denomy said, "We spoke with the hospital staff, and these are the types of things they said they need."

Bought and shipped to Iraq by a non-profit organization in the United States, the supplies are bound to help the doctors at Al-Qadissyaia hospital save lives, according to the hospital's director, who asked not to be named for security.

"Because of the bad condition in our country, we have a deficiency in certain items ... especially in the [electrocardiograph] machines and machines for anesthesia," the director said. "Because we have



By Spc. Jan Critchfield, 122nd MPAD

Soldiers of Company C, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division unload supplies at a hospital in Baghdad's Sadr City neighborhood.

good relations and connection with the [multinational] forces ... they ask about our needs."

"We are very lucky to receive good things from the [multinational] forces because we are in real need," the director said. "[Electrocardiograph] machines are very important to our work for cardiology ... and very serious conditions. We have an old machine, but these machines are very new. These new machines are going to help us save lives," the director said.

Predominately a focus of the U.S. Army's combat power due to a recurring insurgency, a time of relative peace has allowed TF 2-5 Cav. to shift much of their focus in Sadr City to reconstruction and civil military operations.

"We visit this hospital at least twice a month to see how they're doing," Denomy said, "It's always good to do something good for the [Iraqi] people. Any time you can put a smile on someone's face is a good day."



SMA Tour Comes to Baghdad



When:

December 19, 2004

Where/Time:

1030 @ Camps Rustamiyah & Al- Saqr
1900 @ Camp Liberty

Who:



Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth Preston,
Darryl Worley, Mark Willis, Karri
Turner, and Al Franken



Don't Miss out on all the fun!!!